

- **Name of the study:** Relationship between stigma and trust in institutions and consumption of services among Arab parents of children with intellectual disabilities
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- **Authors:** Aya Al-karake, Supervised By: Dr. Lia Levin
- **Research Authority:** Department of Social Work, Tel-Aviv University.

### Abstract

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The current study examines the relationship between internalized stigma, trust in state institutions, and the use of public services among parents of children with intellectual disabilities (ID) in the Arab society in Israel. The aim is to explore how internalized stigma among parents of a child with ID, arising from societal attitudes toward individuals with disabilities and their families, as well as the level of trust parents place in state institutions, are related to their utilization of public support and assistance services.

The study is based on a series of hypotheses that examined various aspects related to service consumption and the differences between two groups of participants based on their level of usage of public services. The findings reveal a negative relationship between the level of internalized stigma and the consumption of services, indicating that stigma makes it difficult for parents to seek professional help due to the adoption of societal prejudices and negative attitudes toward their children and themselves. Additionally, a positive relationship was found between the level of trust in state institutions and the consumption of services, highlighting the role of trust in public service consumption, especially among minority populations that experience feelings of marginalization and discrimination. At the same time, the study's findings show that national affiliation does not significantly alter the strength of the relationship between stigma and service consumption or between trust in institutions and service consumption. Contrary to the hypotheses and the existing research literature, it was

found that stigma and trust in institutions similarly affect both Jews and Arabs, with no significant differences between the groups.

One possible reason for the absence of this difference could be the influence of modernization, which blurs cultural differences and leads to a certain uniformity in perceptions toward public services. Additionally, in Israel, public services are available either for free or with substantial state support, which increases the utilization of these services across the entire population. In Arab society, the impact of these processes may strengthen the similarity between the groups, despite cultural, social, historical differences, and feelings of marginalization and discrimination.

### **Keywords**

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Internalized stigma, trust in institutions, intellectual disabilities, public services, Arab parents, national disparities, comparative research.

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